

Okwanuchu language

Okwanuchu is an extinct Shastan language formerly spoken in northern California. Kroeber described the language as "peculiar. Many words are practically pure Shasta; others are distorted to the very verge of recognizability, or utterly different." Golla^[2] speculates at length that the language may have mixed in another, non-Shasta language. Du Bois,^[3] interviewing a survivor of a group that the Wintu called Waymaq ("north people"), who she believed were probably identical to the Okwanuchu, recorded some words, including *atsa* ("water").^[2] Golla writes that eighteen more words are found, under the name "Wailaki [also meaning 'North People'] on McCloud", in an 1884 work by Jeremiah Curtin; he too recorded *atsa* ("water"), and five words not found elsewhere in Shastan.^[2]

References

1. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Okwanuchu" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/okwa1235>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.

2. Victor Golla *California Indian languages* (2011)

3. Du Bois (1935)

▪ Mithun, Marianne (1999), *The Languages of Native North America*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

External links

- Overview (<http://linguistics.berkeley.edu/~survey/languages/okwanuchu.php>) at the Survey of California and Other Indian Languages

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Okwanuchu	
Native to	United States
Region	northern California
Ethnicity	Okwanuchu
Extinct	(date missing)
Language family	Hokan ? ▪ Shasta–Palaihnihan ▪ Shastan ▪ Shasta proper? ▪ Okwanuchu
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	<i>None</i> (mis)
Glottolog	okwa1235 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/okwa1235) ^[1]